

W. J. ... Procedures

10 February 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Deputy Director
for Intelligence

SUBJECT: OSS Records

1. I have closely studied your memorandum of 6 February, subject as above. It appears to cover admirably the matter I raised with you, and I want to express appreciation for the care with which you have carried out the assignment.

2. In view of the lack of clarity surrounding rights and responsibilities with respect to the OSS records, I believe that the Agency should adopt as policy that individuals outside authorized Government officials will not have access to these files. If we are challenged as to the legality or propriety of this stance, the burden will be on the plaintiff to find some means of obliging us to alter our position. Additionally, this will obviate the necessity of our providing staff assistance to research for material which is filed in no organized manner. It should have the effect of maintaining the security of on-going sources and of preventing revelations about the conduct of persons still alive.

3. I recognize that my position is bound to be controversial. Nevertheless, there has been a good deal already written about the Office of Strategic Services, its people, and its operations. The bloom would seem to be off the rose. Any further rummaging in these files for research purposes will have to have a reason of national significance.

(S) - (U) ...
Richard Helms
Director

cc: D/DCI/NIFE
Ex. Dir.
DD/P
General Counsel

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